

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 16 are pending and under consideration.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 – 16 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claims 1 – 16 are amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1 – 16 are at issue.

I. Objection To The Claims

Claims 1 – 16 are objected to because of informalities. The Examiner stated that the definitions or values of “n” and “m” can not be readily ascertained from the claim language.

Applicants have amended relevant claims by adding that both “n” and “m” are integers, which are greater than 2 and 1, respectively.

Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 1 – 16 be withdrawn.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection of Claims

Claims 1 - 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nishijima et al. (“Nishijima”) (US Patent Number No. 6,263,151). Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Claims 1 – 16 have been amended to clarify the invention and remove any ambiguities that may have been at the basis of these claim rejections.

Claim 1 is directed to a magnetic recording head for a helical scan type magnetic recording/reproducing apparatus. The magnetic recording head comprises a multi-gap recording head having “n” gaps, formed by laminating “n” recording heads, said “n” being an integer greater than 2, with the gaps being pitched so as to record a pattern of tracks adjacent to one another, and a gap for recording the last track among “n” gaps of the multi-gap recording head has a wider gap than other gaps. Thus, the claimed magnetic recording head has a multi-gap recording head which is formed by laminating multiple recording heads and includes a corresponding number of recording gaps.

In contrast, Nishijima discloses a plurality of “n” distinct heads formed on a rotary drum. Nishijima states in reference to FIGs. 1 and 2 that reference numeral 1 denotes a rotary drum, numerals 2 and 3 standard play video recording/reproducing heads, numerals 4 and 5 sextuple

play video recording/reproducing heads, and numerals 6 and 7 audio recording/reproducing heads. (See column 5, lines 46 – 50). Thus, Nishijima discloses a plurality of distinct recording and/or reproducing heads formed on a rotary drum and separated physically by angular gaps, instead of “n” laminated recording heads that together have “n” gaps. Thus, Nishijima fails to teach or suggest the structure of the magnetic recording head of Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is allowable over Nishijima.

Independent Claims 2, 5 – 7, 12, 15 and 16 have been in a similar fashion as Claim 1, so as to clarify that the claimed multi-gap recording head has a plurality of recording gaps, and that the claimed multi-gap reproducing head has a plurality of reproducing gaps.

By arranging these recording and reproducing head configurations, narrow recording tracks, about 1 to 3 μm , can be recorded on a tape recording medium while substantially minimizing any non-recorded areas, and these narrow tracks can be reproduced using so-called non-tracking (NT) technology by scanning a single recorded track twice in one rotation of the head drum.

As such, these claims are also allowable over Nishijima, as are their corresponding dependent claims for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these claim rejections be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 1 – 16 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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